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NEWS

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NAVEDTRACOM EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN ASPIRING LEADER PROGRAM

PENSACOLA, Fla.--Four civilian government employees in local Naval Education and Training Commands (NAVEDTRACOM) are taking part in a very selective new leadership development program. Cynthia Ortiz and Barbara Conyers-Rankin work on the staff of the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET). Joseph Bommarito and Carla Lee work at the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC), Saufley Field.

The Aspiring Leader Program is a National Federal Agency program, which originated in the summer of 1997. Based on the requests of federal agencies, the program is designed to help men and women in the GS-5 to GS-7 grade levels develop the leadership and management skills that will help them to become more effective leaders within their respective federal agencies

“The core competencies of leadership and management are what the course is helping students to learn and refine,” states Joseph Bommarito.

All of the program participants had to go through a discerning selection process. The first step was to be nominated by their agency. The second step of the process involved being screened by the Civilian Leadership Board within their agency, before being selected for the program. In addition to these four individuals, five more employees from the NAVEDTRACOM will begin the program in May. The last class in 1998 was comprised of 108 participants representing 12 federal agencies.

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The course itself is a six month long course marked by a 30-day developmental assignment, three manager interviews, a five day shadowing assignment, and two management book reviews. Participants in the course are required to attend scheduled meetings, and a final one hour Leadership Development Team Presentation.

These different assignments help the participants to become better acquainted with managing people outside of their technical specialty. They also learn managerial techniques and gain experience while under the guidance of current Federal Managers at the GS-11 level or above.

The four employees currently in the program agree that the support and full backing of their supervisors has made it possible for them to participate in the course. The supervisors of the people in this course have been open-minded and accepted the short-term inconveniences of their employees' diverted attention, to achieve long term development for the good of the agency as a whole.

Barbara Rankin-Conyers believes that "this is a wonderful program, that really opens up the avenues for networking. It gives the civilian employees the tools they need to move up in their agency."

All four of the members in the program are looking forward to the next meeting in Lancaster, Pa., from March 7-12. These four leaders will graduate from the course on July 16, at the last meeting in Timonium, Md.

For those interested in the Aspiring Leader Program, please contact the CNET Human Resources Office at (850) 452-4875.